

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce method comprising the steps of:
determining at least one e-commerce partner;
determining whether said e-commerce partner is an active partner based on at least one predetermined criteria, wherein determining whether said e-commerce partner is an active partner comprises at least one of the following steps, each step being based on a corresponding criterion:
detecting whether a transaction has occurred with said e-commerce partner within a designated time period,
determining whether transactions involving said e-commerce partner exceed a designated valuation threshold,
determining whether a transaction involving said e-commerce partner exceeds a designated data size, and
determining whether said e-commerce partner has a preference level above a designated preference level,
wherein the corresponding criteria for determining whether an e-commerce partner is an active partner are adjustable;
presenting a partner identifier as an expandable partner node within a commerce graphical user interface for said e-commerce partner if it is determined that said e-commerce partner is an active partner, ~~wherein within said commerce graphical user interface the partner identifier is an expandable node~~;

~~presenting an expansion of at least one of said nodes within said commerce graphical user interface;~~

~~for each expansion~~ when the partner node is expanded, presenting at least one transaction identifier as a child node of said expanded partner node, wherein each transaction identifier represents an ~~electronic commerce~~ e-commerce transaction between a user of the commerce graphical user interface and said e-commerce partner;

categorizing a node associated with at least one of a ~~transmission~~ transaction and an e-commerce partner;

visually differentiating said node from other nodes at the same node level and at a different node level based upon a category of said node; and

assigning responsible personnel to transactions based on predetermined rules.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic commerce transactions include at least one business-to-business transaction, and wherein said e-commerce partners include at least one trading partner.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, said method further comprising the step of:
providing a business partner gateway, wherein said commerce graphical user interface is an interface for interacting with said business partner gateway.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic commerce transactions include at least one business-to-consumer transaction, and wherein said e-commerce partners include at least one consumer.

5-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
detecting a transmission error; and
indicating within said graphical user interface that an error occurred during an associated transmission.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
receiving a selection specifying a node of said graphical user interface;
responsively establishing a communication session between a user of said commerce graphical user interface and the e-commerce partner associated with said node.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said communication session is an instant messaging session.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said establishing step further comprises the steps of:
selecting a communication channel; and
establishing said communication session through said communication channel.
- 12-28. (Cancelled).